

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DEA RANGOON CHIANG MAI
SONGKHLA DTD 290622Z JUL 76

QUOTE BANGKOK 21314

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SEIZURES IN THAILAND SINCE JANUARY 1976

REF: BANGKOK A-86

1. THE EMBASSY HAS ACQUIRED OFFICIAL THAI STATISTICS ON
NARCOTICS SEIZURES FROM JANUARY THROUGH MAY, 1976 AND
HAS ALSO COMPILED STATISTICS FROM POLICE
AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY.
IN THE PAST, THE EMBASSY HAS FOUND OFFICIAL STATISTICS
TO BE CONSERVATIVE.
EMBASSY ESTIMATES ARE ALSO ON THE
CONSERVATIVE SIDE. THE OFFICIAL SEIZURE STATISTICS
FROM JANUARY THROUGH MAY ARE:

606.9 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM (RAW, PREPARED, AND RESIDUE)
190.1 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE
136.5 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN (#3 AND #4)

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THE EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS

OF OPIATES HAVE BEEN SEIZED FROM JUNE 1 TO DATE:

576.0 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM (RAW AND PREPARED)

67.0 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN

-- SMALL AMOUNTS OF MORPHINE WERE ALSO SEIZED.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF HEROIN, MORPHINE AND OPIUM SEIZED

EQUALS 5,118.9 KILOGRAMS IN OPIUM EQUIVALENT

(FIGURING MORPHINE AND HEROIN AT A ONE TO TEN RATIO WITH OPIUM).

2. THE SEIZURES MADE TO DATE REPRESENT A 76 PERCENT INCREASE
OVER THE SEIZURES MADE DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977.

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL POLICE FIGURES, FROM

JANUARY THROUGH JULY 1975, 2,911.1 KILOGRAMS OF

OPIATES (IN OPIUM EQUIVALENT) WERE SEIZED. THE 1976

FIGURES ARE ALREADY ALMOST AS HIGH AS THE FIGURES

FOR ALL OF 1974, WHEN AN ESTIMATED 5,330 KILOGRAMS

IN OPIUM EQUIVALENT WERE SEIZED.

3. WHILE AMOUNTS OF NARCOTICS SEIZED MAY VARY

FROM MONTH TO MONTH, AND THERE IS NO WAY OF GUARANTEE-

ING THAT THE PRESENT RATE OF SEIZURES WILL CONTINUE,

THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT THE FIGURES CITED ABOVE INDICATE

AN INCREASED DETERMINATION OF THE RTG TO IMPROVE NARCOTICS

ENFORCEMENT IN THAILAND. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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